



**TOWN OF MEDWAY**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

*Medway Town Hall  
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**Minutes**

Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

In-person Meeting at Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street

*Commission  
Members*

*Jeanne Johnson,  
Chair*

*Paul Russell, Vice  
Chair*

*Eugene Liscombe,  
Treasurer,  
Representative to  
Community  
Preservation  
Committee*

*Cher Hamilton,  
Member*

*Morgan Harris,  
Member*

*Rich Eustis,  
Member*

**Members in Attendance:** Jeanne Johnson, Gene Liscombe, Cher Hamilton,  
Morgan Harris

**Members Absent:** McKenzie Ward, Rich Eustis, Paul Russell

**Others Present:** Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary, Isabelle Nulter,  
Prospective Member of Medway Historical Commission

**Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission Chair, Jeanne Johnson at  
7:01 PM.**

**Reorganize for Fiscal Year 2023**

On a motion made by Gene Liscombe, seconded by Morgan Harris, the Historical  
Commission voted in the following slate of officers:

Jeanne and Cher as Co- Chairs

Paul will continue as Vice Chair

Gene Liscombe will continue as Treasurer.

Gene Liscombe will continue as Representative to Community Preservation Committee (CPC)  
Representative to new steering committee, Native American & Indigenous Peoples National  
Heritage Commemoration Day: Cher Hamilton

**1. Demolition Applications to consider** None to consider.

**2. Review Minutes of April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>**

*On a motion made by Cher Hamilton, seconded by Gene Liscombe, the Historical Commission voted to approve the  
May 25, 2022 meeting minutes.*

*On a motion made by Morgan Harris, seconded by Cher Hamilton, the Historical Commission voted to approve the  
April 27, 2022 meeting minutes.*

**3. Treasurer's report (Gene Liscombe)**

No change. The budgeted amount (\$2500) will go back to the Town general fund on June 30 as the  
Historical Commission has not spent it.

**4. Report of CPC meetings (Gene Liscombe)**

Next Meeting is on July 11<sup>th</sup> – meeting with Select Board.

## 5. Project updates/discussion (Old Business)

**a. Evergreen Cemetery** – In May we voted to proceed with getting estimates and designs for the signs. Paul is working on this.

**b. Flexible wraps featuring historical Medway scenes around traffic signal boxes (Paul)**

We will meet on July 18th (Medway Library) with Design Review and Cultural Council. Paul will have map of relevant box locations. The Commission is concerned with those in historic areas of Medway. Jeanne, Paul, Cher, and Gene are planning to attend.

Although Barbara was not at tonight's meeting, she e-mailed this list of traffic signal boxes for consideration to be wrapped:

1. Although not on Main Street, Katie pointed out that there is a utility box located at Oakland Park/Senior Center, which could be an excellent choice for either the Cultural Council or the HC to use if the Select Board agrees to the project.
2. East bound, Medway Commons entrance
3. East bound, Holliston Street:
4. West bound, front of Sullivan Tire
5. East bound, front of MW healthcare
6. WB, Medway Plaza entrance
7. WB, front of Medway Block – [Historical Commission](#)
8. WB, Winthrop Street – [Historical Commission](#)
9. EB, front of Learning Tree – [Historical Commission](#)
10. WB, front of Choate Park – [Historical Commission](#)
11. WB, front of 184 Main Street (approximate) – [Historical Commission](#)
12. WB, Highland Street – [Historical Commission](#)

Cher will check Village Street for electrical boxes. Jeanne will ask Paul to firm up historical photos to use. Paul has a mockup to use as an example. Might need **another meeting** prior to July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to gather photos and signal-box selections. Ms. Saint Andre will discuss Open Meeting Law related to special joint meetings like this.

**c. Local Historic Districts—formulate letter to owners of old houses**

This was tabled at our April and May meetings as there were several projects going on already. Tabled to finalize existing projects.

**d. Funding for digitization of Jameson History of Medway, part of CPC funding article for several projects, was approved.**

Jameson History of Medway book proposed by Mr. Almont Green is on hold until Mr. Green notifies us he is ready to proceed. Funding was approved at May Town Meeting and proposal does not need to go out to bid as it is under \$10,000.

**e. Signs for Cemeteries, Garnsey Foundation, Drybridge Crossing**

Jeanne emailed information about Drybridge Hill to a contact at the Charles River Bank and has not heard back yet. They believe the bridge is on the Cassidy property. Jeanne did research on the Drybridge and read some of it to us. She shared this context to be included in these minutes- Exhibit A below.

## 6. New Business

a. This Commission has a vacancy since Kenzie has moved could not renew her appointment.

b. Cher Hamilton volunteered to serve as HC representative to a new steering committee established by the Select Board in April 2022: Native American & Indigenous Peoples National Heritage Commemoration Day. As of the June 22nd meeting, the committee had not met.

c. Morgan will be moving to Franklin – there will be another vacancy.

**On a motion made by Gene; seconded by Cher, the Historical Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:52 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.**

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

## **Exhibit A –**

### **Some History of Drybridge Hill, Medway, MA**

***In 2022, the Charles River Bank stands at the northwest corner of Holliston and Main Streets, about 200 feet from the old location of the dry bridge.***

*The Middle Post Road in Medway*, by Francis D. Donovan, (Medway, Massachusetts), 1991

Not far beyond the Harding place is the location of a "dry bridge," and this one outlasted many of its contemporaries. These "bridges" were actually stone-lined tunnels under roads to allow passage of cattle to pasture without crossing the road. Because they carried no water, and were not drains, they were called dry bridges.

1842. "Dry Bridge" across the turnpike abolished at a cost of \$25.

*Handbook of Medway History, 1713-1913* by Orion T. Mason

P. 38 1842—"Dry Bridge" across the turnpike abolished at a cost of \$25.

P. 84 New Grant Localities. Drybridge Hill—And school house on Main Street, so called for the under ground passage made to accommodate cattle under the turnpike.

*The Hartford & Dedham Turnpike in Medway* (a 31-page paper) by Francis D. Donovan, 1995  
(Now Route 109, Main Street) (Traveling west from Dedham)

P. 11 and 12 "Coming into Medway, and on the northwest corner of what is now Main and Holliston Streets, stands the Simeon Partridge house, dating to about 1845. . . . Opposite this place is a Gulf gasoline station, one of the oldest commercial establishments in town. . . . Just beyond the Partridge place, and at the foot of Drybridge Hill, stood the first "Drybridge School." (The second of that name was located at Holliston and Lovering Streets.) Drybridge Hill, by the way, gained its name from a cattle underpass built so that Simeon Partridge's cattle could be brought out to pasture south of the Turnpike without crossing the road. Atop Drybridge Hill, and located where the Colonial Plaza is today, was the Aaron Hobart residence. This dwelling was reputed to be one of the first Sears & Roebuck

prefabricated cottages, and was razed to make way for the plaza. A small house and bootshop built around 1860, and later occupied by Peter Gallagher stood about where the Shell gasoline station is now. It burned in 1900. The next house on the north side of the 'pike was the Hurd place, standing where the Medway Shopping Center sign is now. The house was formerly owned by Henry Wheat and was built around 1850." Etc.

Old Medway Locations (a 9-page paper) by Francis D. Donovan, 1996

P. 2 DRYBRIDGE HILL. The hill on which our present shopping center is located, between Temple and Holliston Streets. So named because a "dry bridge" once existed for a cattle underpass under Main Street—the former Turnpike—about 200 feet westerly of Holliston Street. Traces of the northerly end of the underpass are still visible. The Turnpike authorities would not allow cattle crossing over the road to pastures south of the 'pike. The walled tunnel was built in 1807 and lasted until 1842.

These notes compiled by Jeanne Johnson, June 17, 2022